

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-20 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

an external device connection unit configured to connect ~~for connecting~~ an external device;

a first driver storage unit configured to store ~~for storing~~ a first driver to control ~~said the~~ connected external device in a general-purpose manner; ~~manner~~;

a determination unit configured to determine ~~for determining~~ whether or not a second driver to control ~~said the~~ connected external device in a device-specific manner exists in ~~said the~~ external device;

an acquisition unit configured to ~~for~~, if said determination unit determines that ~~said the~~ second driver exists, obtain the ~~obtaining said~~ second driver from ~~said the~~ connected external device; and

~~a second driver~~ an image data storage unit configured to store image data; and ~~for storing~~ ~~said obtaining second driver~~.

a controller for controlling a storage operation of said second driver,

wherein said controller assigns a vacant area in said image data storage unit to a new second driver to be stored, and if there is no vacant area in said image data storage unit, upon a reception of an instruction from an operator of said information processing apparatus to delete said second driver already stored in said image data storage unit, said controller deletes said second driver selected by the operator from the image data storage unit.

2. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a driver switching unit configured to select ~~for selecting~~ one of ~~said the~~ first driver and ~~said the~~ second driver as a driver to control ~~said the~~ external device in accordance with ~~said the~~ connected external device.

3. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first driver storage unit is a nonvolatile storage unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ second driver storage unit is a volatile storage unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a warning unit configured to provide ~~for giving~~ a warning to ~~an the~~ operator of ~~said information processing apparatus~~ if said determination unit determines that ~~said the~~ second driver does not exist.

6. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said warning unit provides the ~~gives said~~ warning in a case where ~~said the~~ second driver cannot be stored in said second driver storage unit ~~since an~~ due to the available capacity of said second driver storage unit is being insufficient.

7. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said warning unit ~~gives~~ provides the said warning in a case where data of said second driver ~~storage~~ stored in said second driver storage unit, as a result of a first acquisition operation during which the second driver is acquired from the connected external device and stored in the second driver storage unit, is compared with ~~said~~ data of the second driver obtained from ~~said the~~ connected external device during a second acquisition operation during which the second driver is acquired again from the connected external device and there is a difference between the data of said stored second driver acquired in the first acquisition operation and data of and ~~said the~~ obtained second driver acquired in the second acquisition operation.

8. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a third storage unit configured store ~~for storing~~ information on the existence/absence of ~~said the~~ second driver in ~~said the~~ connected external device; and

a update unit configured to update the ~~for updating said~~ information,

wherein said determination unit determines the existence/absence of ~~said the~~ second driver to control ~~said the~~ connected external device in the device-specific manner in ~~said the~~ connected external device, based on ~~said the~~ updated information stored in said third storage unit.

9. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a display unit configured to display ~~for displaying~~ information on ~~said the~~ second driver stored in said second driver storage unit.

10. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a deletion unit configured to delete the ~~for deleting said~~ second driver from said second driver storage unit if an instruction to delete ~~said~~ the second driver from said second driver storage unit is received.

11. (Currently Amended) A control method for an information processing apparatus having an external device connection unit to connect an external device, and a first driver storage unit to store a first driver to control ~~said~~ the connected external device in a general-purpose manner, and an image data storage unit to store image data, comprising:

a determination step of determining whether or not a second driver to control ~~said~~ the connected external device in a device-specific manner exists in ~~said~~ the external device;

an acquisition step of, if it is determined at said determination step that ~~said~~ the second driver exists, obtaining ~~said~~ the second driver from ~~said~~ the connected external device; and

a storage step of storing ~~said~~ the obtained second driver into ~~a second driver~~ the image data storage unit,

wherein in said storage step, a vacant area in said image data storage unit is assigned to a new second driver to be stored, and if there is no vacant area in said image data storage unit, upon a reception of an instruction from an operator of said information processing apparatus to delete said second driver already stored in said image data storage unit, said second driver selected by the operator is deleted from the image data storage unit.

12. (Currently Amended) The control method according to Claim 11, further comprising a driver switching step of selecting one of ~~said~~ the first driver and ~~said~~ the second driver as a driver to control ~~said~~ the external device in accordance with ~~said~~ the connected external device.

13. (Currently Amended) The control method according to Claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the first driver storage unit is a nonvolatile storage unit.

14. (Currently Amended) The control method according to Claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the second driver storage unit is a volatile storage unit.

15. (Currently Amended) The control method according to Claim 11, further comprising a warning step of ~~giving~~ providing a warning to ~~an~~ the operator of ~~said information processing apparatus~~ if it is determined at said determination step that ~~said~~ the second driver does not exist.

16. (Currently Amended) The control method according to Claim 15, wherein at said warning step, ~~said~~ the warning is given in a case where ~~said~~ the second driver cannot be stored in ~~said~~ the second driver storage unit due to the ~~since an~~ available capacity of ~~said~~ the second driver storage unit is being insufficient.

17. (Currently Amended) The control method according to Claim 15, wherein at said warning step, said warning is provided ~~given~~ in a case where data of said second driver stored in said second driver storage unit, as a result of a first acquisition operation during which the second

driver is acquired from the connected external device and stored in the second driver storage unit,
is compared with ~~said~~ the second driver obtained from ~~said~~ the connected external device during
a second acquisition operation during which the second driver is acquired again from the
connected external device and there is a difference between the data of ~~said~~ the stored second
driver acquired in the first acquisition operation and data of the ~~and said~~ obtained second driver
obtained in the second acquisition operation.

18. (Currently Amended) The control method according to Claim 11, further comprising:
a third storage unit step of storing ~~to store~~ information on the existence/absence of ~~said~~
the second driver in ~~said~~ the connected external device; and
an update unit updating step of updating the ~~to update~~ ~~said~~ information,
wherein at said determination step, a determination is made as to the existence/absence of
~~said~~ the second driver to control ~~said~~ the connected external device in the device-specific manner
in ~~said~~ the connected external device, based on ~~said~~ the updated information stored in ~~said~~ the
third storage unit.

19. (Currently Amended) The control method according to Claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the
information processing apparatus further comprises a display unit to display information on ~~said~~
the second driver stored in ~~said~~ the second driver storage unit,
said method further comprising a deletion step of deleting ~~said~~ the second driver from
~~said~~ the second driver storage unit if an instruction to delete ~~said~~ the second driver from ~~said~~ the
second driver storage unit is received.

20. (Currently Amended) A control program for causing ~~causes to~~ a computer to execute a control method for an information processing apparatus having an external device connection unit to connect an external device, ~~and~~ a first driver storage unit to store a first driver to control ~~said the~~ connected external device in a general-purpose manner, and an image data storage unit to store image data, said control method comprising:

a determination step of determining whether or not a second driver to control ~~said the~~ connected external device in a device-specific manner exists in ~~said the~~ external device;

an acquisition step of, if it is determined at said determination step that ~~said the~~ second driver exists, obtaining ~~said the~~ second driver from ~~said the~~ connected external device; and

a storage step of storing ~~said the~~ obtained second driver into the image data ~~a second~~ driver storage unit,

wherein in said storage step, a vacant area in said image data storage unit is assigned a new second driver to be stored, and if there is no vacant area in said image data storage unit, upon a reception of an instruction from an operator of said information processing apparatus to delete said second driver already stored in said image data storage unit, said second driver selected by the operator is deleted from the image data storage unit.